

Q4 2020

HOW TO STOP VOTER INTIMIDATION AND PREPARE YOUR EMPLOYEES FOR “ELECTION WEEK”

OHIO EMPLOYER TOOLKIT



BUSINESSFORWARD
FOUNDATION

INTRODUCTION

The 2020 election will be among the most contentious in recent history. Ohio's most respected CEOs are committed to protecting the most vulnerable among us – and to rejecting those trying to divide us. We encourage you to join them.

This toolkit is designed to help you talk with your neighbors who may support outside groups pledging to disrupt voting places across Ohio. These groups claim to be preventing voter fraud, but exhaustive research by law enforcement officials from both Parties and across the U.S. debunks these claims.

We also provide advice and links to non-partisan resources for helping you and your employees register and vote. For those who want to do more, we provide links for serving as a poll worker or watcher.

A COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATION OF VOTER IMPERSONATION FINDS 31 CREDIBLE INCIDENTS OUT OF ONE BILLION BALLOTS CAST

The Washington Post

AUGUST 6, 2014
JUSTIN LEVITT

MINNESOTA'S 0.000004% VOTER FRAUD CITED AS GOP SUIT TOSSED

Bloomberg

OCTOBER 12, 2020
ERIK LARSON

TRUMP COMMISSION FOUND NO WIDESPREAD VOTER FRAUD, REPORT SAYS

Los Angeles Times

AUGUST 3, 2018
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A FEDERAL JUDGE ASKED THE TRUMP CAMPAIGN FOR EVIDENCE OF MAIL-IN VOTER FRAUD. THEY COULDN'T DELIVER

The  INDEPENDENT

AUGUST 22, 2020
RICHARD HALL

TOPLINE: TO STOP VOTER INTIMIDATION, YOU MUST (1) DEBUNK THE LIES JUSTIFYING IT, AND (2) EXPLAIN WHAT THOSE LIES COST YOUR COMMUNITY

1. Republican campaigns and outside groups are recruiting supporters to police polling places and deter what they describe as “widespread voter fraud.”
2. They exaggerate the problem of voter fraud by a factor of 5,000 with two goals in mind: to (1) recruit poll “watchers,” and (2) spread distrust of election results.
3. These groups are targeting our most vulnerable communities -- and they will be targeting polling places that are among our most poorly staffed (with the longest lines).
4. Local business leaders can debunk false voter fraud claims. Perhaps more important, they can explain how important supporting vulnerable communities is to your state’s economy and competitiveness.

“

I’ll look for... well, it’s called racial profiling. Mexicans. Syrians. People who can’t speak American... I’m going to go right up behind them... I’m going to make them a little nervous.

”

- STEVE WEBB
FAIRFIELD, OHIO
OCTOBER, 2016¹

FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO

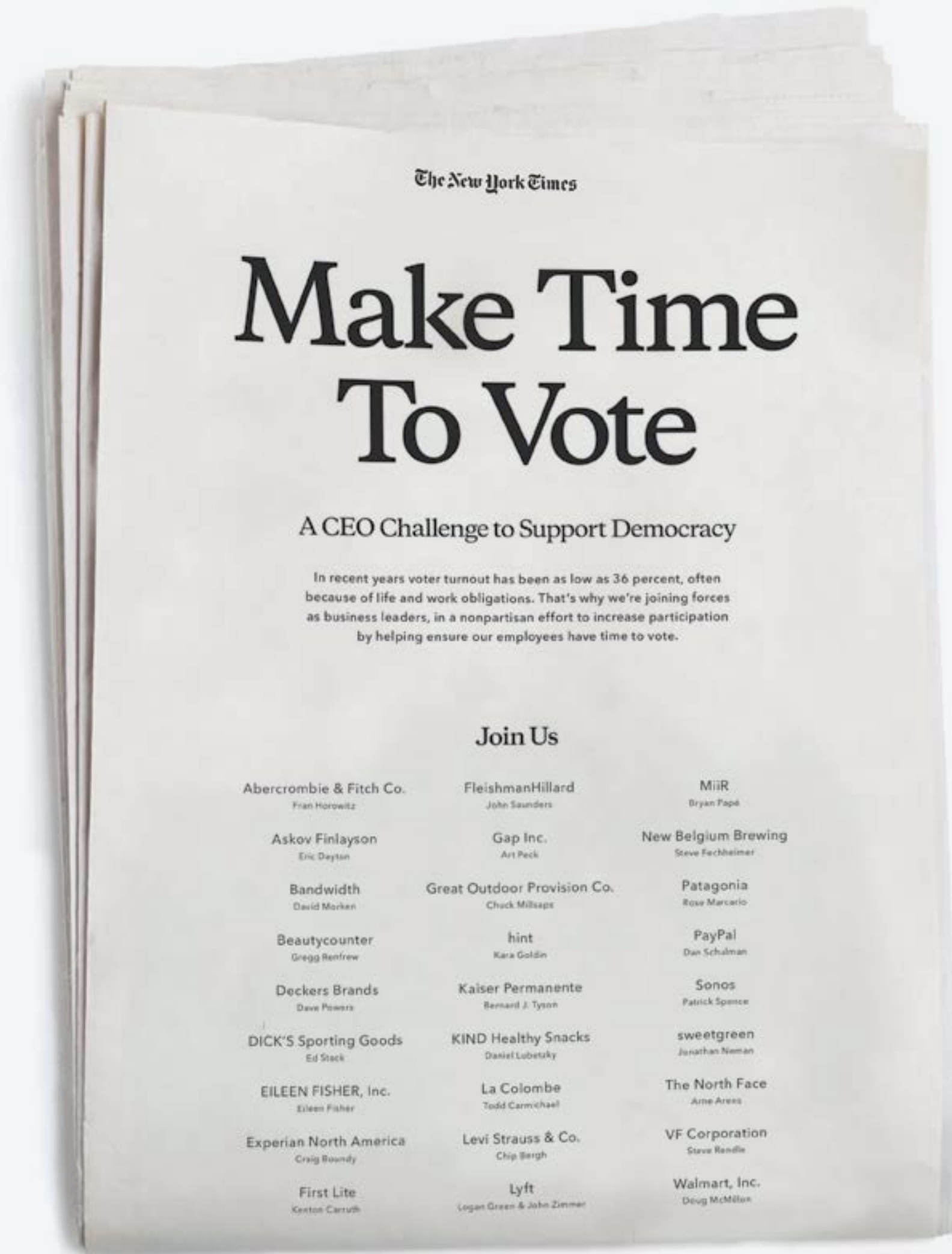
1. HELP YOUR EMPLOYEES REGISTER AND VOTE.

2. DEBUNK FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT VOTER FRAUD.

3. PREPARE YOUR EMPLOYEES FOR EXTENDED BALLOT-COUNTING AND A DELAYED DECISION.

4. STAND UP FOR VOTERS MOST LIKELY TO BE HARASSED.

5. SERVE AS A POLL WORKER OR POLL WATCHER.



HELP YOUR EMPLOYEES REGISTER AND VOTE

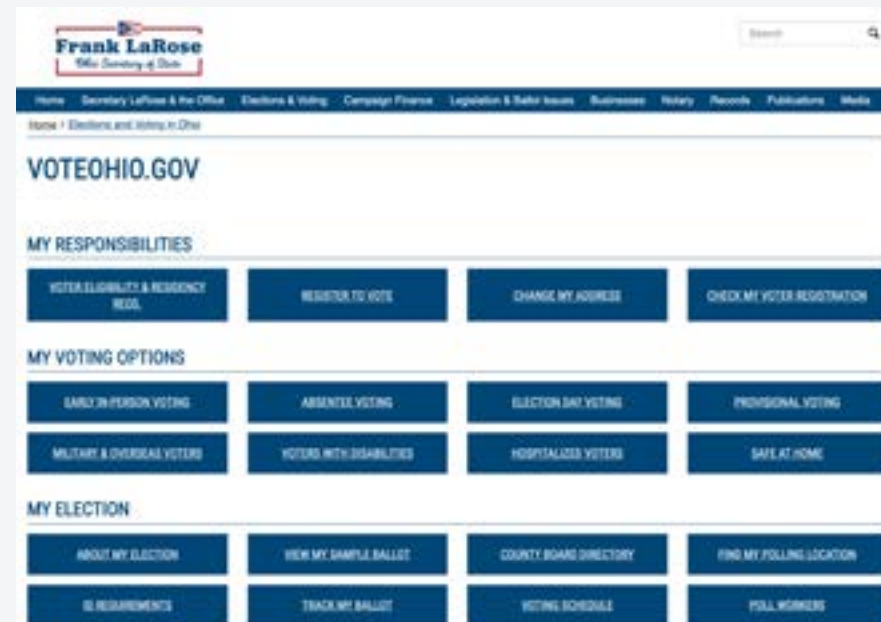
1. HELP YOUR TEAM FIND THE BASICS ON REGISTRATION, EDUCATION, AND WHEN/WHERE/HOW TO VOTE.



VOTE.ORG



OHIO VOTER INFORMATION



2. REMEMBER “DOS” AND “DON’TS.”



DO

ENCOURAGE EMPLOYEES TO VOTE



DON'T

ENCOURAGE THEM TO VOTE FOR A PARTICULAR CANDIDATE.

3. ENCOURAGE THEM TO VOTE EARLY.

Lines are shorter. It's also easier for workers with young children, a second job, or night classes.

Chances are, your employees don't know when early voting starts.



DEBUNK VOTER FRAUD CLAIMS

COMPREHENSIVE EVIDENCE VS. UNSUPPORTED CLAIMS

Outside groups claim up to 5% of votes cast are fraudulent.²

The most recent and comprehensive investigation by U.S. election officials examined nearly 12 million ballots across five states (2016). It found only 0.001% may have been fraudulent.³

So what's the difference between their unfounded claim of 5% and 0.001%?

5.000%

VS.

0.001%

ACROSS 140 MILLION VOTES

UNFOUNDED CLAIM (1 IN 20):

7,000,000

FRAUDULENT VOTES

ACTUAL AUDIT (1 IN 100,000):

1,400

FRAUDULENT VOTES

SHARE THE FACTS ON VOTE SECURITY

PROTECTIONS AGAINST FAKE BALLOTS

Each city or county produces its own ballots, with specific paper stock and color, security envelopes, return envelopes, and time stamps.

This makes it impossible for a foreign country to manufacture millions of fake ones, as President Trump suggests.⁴

PROTECTIONS AGAINST DOUBLE-VOTING

President Trump has asked his supporters in NC to vote twice (once by mail, then again in person).⁵

They'll be wasting their time. NC, like other states, removes voters who've already voted by mail from the rolls on election day.

Also, ballots are numbered and bar-coded, so they can't be counted twice.⁶

CLAIMS OF "BUSLOADS" OF OUT OF STATE VOTERS

President Trump claims he lost NH in 2016 because thousands of non-residents were bused in from out of state to vote against him.

Investigators found that buses were filled with NH voters being transported from their NH nursing homes, apartment buildings, and college dorms to local polling locations. Some of the buses were rented from companies in MA, VT, and ME.

In other words, the buses had out of state plates, but they were filled with in state voters.⁷

CLAIMS OF "THOUSANDS" OF DEAD VOTERS

High-profile investigations in GA, MD, MI, MO, NH, NJ, and NY disproved fraud involving deceased voters.

Each attributed the problem to flawed matches of lists from one place (death records) to another (voter rolls).

The most common causes were matching errors (the voter list had multiple "John Smiths") or clerical errors (the clerk checked the wrong John Smith off the list).⁸



1 IN 4
Americans vote
by mail.⁹

28 STATES
already encourage
vote-by-mail (without asking
for a reason).¹⁰



It's enjoyed bipartisan
support for years.¹¹



The 5 states that vote
exclusively by mail have
higher turnout and
lower costs.¹²


.001%
POTENTIAL
VOTING FRAUD

In 2016, a study of 5
states - focused on 3 that
exclusively vote by mail -
reported 112 cases of
potential fraud out of
11.5 million ballots.¹³

Their experience
demonstrates there's
higher risk of error or fraud
from in-person voting
than mail-in voting.¹⁴

That's because voters often
show up at the wrong polling
location, whereas mailed
ballots go to only those who
can use them.




Covid-19 makes crowded
polling places dangerous for
seniors and those with
underlying conditions.

Meanwhile, states rely
heavily on seniors to serve
as poll workers. With seniors
staying away, state polling
places will be shorthanded.

PREPARE YOUR EMPLOYEES FOR “ELECTION WEEK”

A CONCLUSIVE OUTCOME ON ELECTION NIGHT IS UNLIKELY

1. Some states will accept ballots post-marked on election day, which means vote totals for these states could take more than a week.
2. On election night, some states count mail-in ballots first; some last. This could affect early vote totals -- but not the final result.
3. Setting expectations early will encourage patience and help your employees manage anxiety.

A WINNER ON ELECTION DAY IN NOVEMBER? DON'T COUNT ON IT

The New York Times

JUNE 24, 2020
SHANE GOLDMACHER

THIS NOVEMBER, ELECTION NIGHT COULD STRETCH INTO ELECTION WEEK OR MONTH

npr

JUNE 13, 2020
MILES PARKS

DECLARING 2020'S WINNER COULD WELL HINGE ON HOW QUICKLY STATES COUNT MAIL BALLOTS

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2020
ALEXA CORSE

HELP VOTERS WHO NEED IT MOST

Even in normal times, some voters need more help than others. During a pandemic, looking out for younger voters and vulnerable communities is critical.

**YOUNG PEOPLE VOTE
20% LESS THAN THE
NATIONAL AVERAGE¹⁵**



**PEOPLE OF COLOR ARE MORE LIKELY
TO FACE OBSTACLES TO VOTING**

TIME SPENT WAITING TO VOTE

A 2019 study of the 2016 presidential election found that, relative to entirely-white neighborhoods, residents of entirely-black neighborhoods waited

29%

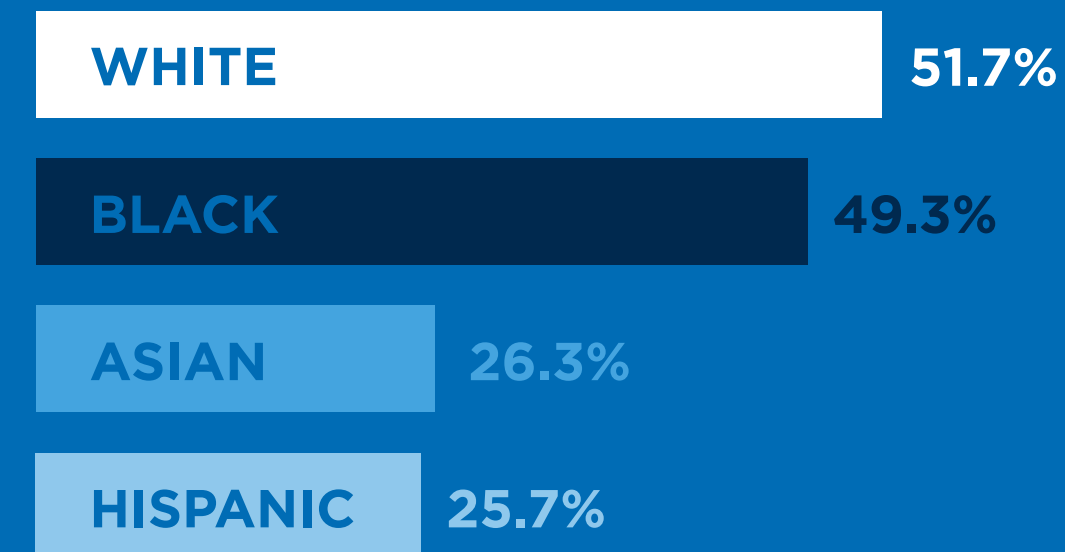
longer to vote and were

74%

more likely to spend 30 minutes at their polling place.¹⁶

VOTING RATES BY RACE

(AVERAGE TURNOUT AS % OF TOTAL VOTING AGE POPULATION: 2000-2018)¹⁷



ACT NOW



CLICK THE LOGOS
BELOW TO HELP NOW

VOTOLATINO[★]

ROCK THE VOTE

Student PIRGs
**New
oters
Project**

THE NATIONAL
Coalition on Black
Civic Participation

**nextgen
america** 

JOIN LOCAL CEOS STANDING UP FOR OHIO'S MOST VULNERABLE

“ Our commitment to help and support now is critical, as so many of our associates, families, friends, customers and communities are hurting, frustrated and angry... We must use our voice to express that we are against racism and injustice against the black community. We can and we must do better as a company and community to become a greater part of the solution. ”

- RODNEY MCMULLEN
CHAIRMAN AND CEO, KROGER
CINCINNATI, OH¹⁸



“ Far too often, the burden of seeking equality rests on the shoulders of those most marginalized. This simply won't work. The change we need is broad and deep and requires us all to be active. ”

- DAVID TAYLOR
CEO, P&G
CINCINNATI, OH²⁰



“ As a team, we're committed to informing and educating ourselves so we can continue to be part of this conversation. We encourage our partners and readers of all ages to join us. ”

- OVERDRIVE
CLEVELAND, OH²¹



“ We unequivocally denounce racism, intolerance, bias, violence and injustice here and elsewhere...racist rhetoric and xenophobia throughout this crisis have created an even greater divide in our country. ”

- MARK AND RICHARD SMUCKER
CEO AND CHAIRMAN, SMUCKER'S
ORRVILLE, OH¹⁹



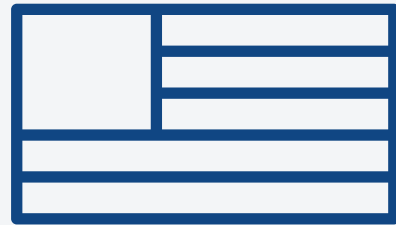
“ One of our core values at Big Lots is that we treat all like friends, and we bring an attitude of respect and honesty to every interaction. Together, we all stand against the racism and discrimination that so disproportionately impacts the black community. ”

- BIG LOTS
COLUMBUS, OH²²

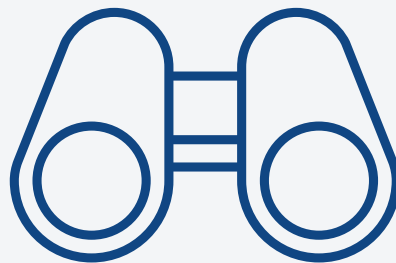


BECOME A POLL WORKER OR POLL WATCHER

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A POLL WORKER VS. POLL WATCHER?



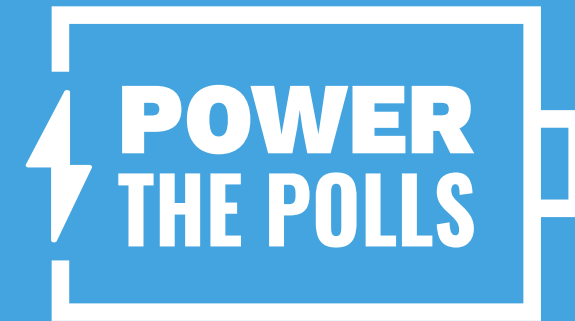
POLL WORKERS are trained by local election boards to identify problems and serve at polling places on Election Day. It's a nonpartisan role that simply works to ensure a successful election process.



POLL WATCHERS are recruited by political parties to protect people casting their vote. They monitor incidents of voter intimidation and work with voters and election officials to address problems at the polls.

BECOME A POLL WORKER

NATIONAL



POWER THE POLLS

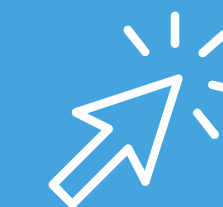
We are proud to partner with this new initiative from [Work Elections](#), teaming up with businesses and coalitions to promote civic engagement and poll worker recruitment.

HELP AMERICA VOTE

September 1st is National Poll Worker Recruitment day. [Click here](#) to learn more about working at your local polling place.

OHIO NEEDS POLL WORKERS

SIGN UP TO BE AN ELECTION WORKER THROUGH THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE FRANK LAROSE:



HELP YOUR PARTY AT THE POLLS

CLICK HERE FOR MORE ON POLL WATCHERS

Check with party leadership in your county for the opportunity to become a poll watcher.

NCSL POLL WATCHER QUALIFICATIONS IN OHIO:

“Must be a registered voter in the precinct; can’t be a candidate; can be appointed by a political party or a group of five or more candidates; one person per precinct; can’t be a uniformed peace officer, state patrolman, member of an organized militia or any other person in uniform; can’t be carrying a firearm or deadly weapon.”²³

RESOURCES: GET INFORMED AND INVOLVED

VOTER REGISTRATION



#VOTETOGETHER



I am a voter.

HeadCOUNT.ORG

VOTE.ORG

ELECTIONDAY.ORG

IGNITE

ROCK THE VOTE

TurboVote

THE VOTING INFORMATION PROJECT

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



INFORMATION ABOUT CANDIDATES AND ISSUES

BallotReady

BALLOTPEDIA

WHEN, WHERE & HOW TO VOTE



OHIO VOTER INFORMATION CENTER

VOTE.ORG

VOTER ACCESS

Democracy is GOOD FOR BUSINESS

VoteSafe

FAIR ELECTIONS CENTER

FAIR FIGHT

ALL VOTING IS LOCAL

ACLU

WHEN WE ALL VOTE

VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS

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